



DEP NEWS RELEASE

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Phil Murphy, Governor
Sheila Oliver, Lt. Governor
Catherine R. McCabe, Acting Commissioner



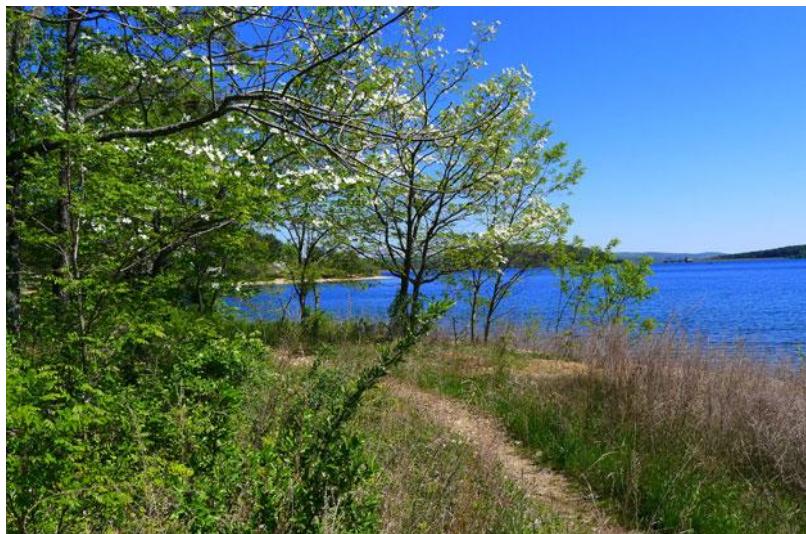
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DEP ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO TAKE TO THE TRAIL ON SATURDAY, JUNE 2

(18/P39) TRENTON – The Department of Environmental Protection is encouraging residents and visitors to enjoy the outdoors and the state’s extensive network of trails by participating in National Trails Day hikes and related activities on Saturday, June 2.



This year’s events help mark the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act, signed into law by President Lyndon Baines Johnson on October 2, 1968. This law launched a national strategy to create and manage both urban and wilderness trails across the nation.

“New Jersey boasts some 1,500 miles of trails, opening up a wide variety of environments for exploration – coastal marshes, urban waterfronts, the Pine

Barrens, and the hilly Highlands and Skyland regions, to name some,” said Acting Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe. “There are few better ways to appreciate nature than hiking a trail.”

The vast network of trails in the state offers opportunities for a wide array of activities. In addition to hiking and nature appreciation, trails offer opportunities for cycling, horseback riding, backpacking, skiing, as well as places to launch canoes and kayaks. Always check ahead to determine approved trail uses.

An initiative of the American Hiking Society, National Trails Day was first celebrated in 1993 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the National Trails System Act. It is now an annual event designed to promote the many attributes of recreational trails.

In New Jersey, dozens of events are planned. Highlights include:

- Assisting with trail maintenance in Bass River State Forest in the Pine Barrens of Burlington County;
- Participating in the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference Open House in Bergen County;
- Celebrating National Trails Day with a variety of events in Cherry Hill, Camden County;
- Taking a weekend horse-riding and camping trip in Sussex County;
- Canoeing while pitching in with a river cleanup in Hunterdon County;
- Geocaching at the Trailside Nature and Science Center in Union County.

For more details and additional events, [click here](#). Please note that some events require a RSVP or preregistration.

National Trails Day helps foster a public understanding of the importance of trails and the perseverance and dedication of those who helped establish, preserve and maintain them. Trails provide health and fitness opportunities, outdoor classrooms for nature study, greenways for wildlife conservation, links with historic sites – and an economic boost to regional tourism.

For more information, visit the New Jersey Trails program: www.trails.nj.gov

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